

BEACON
SPOTLIGHT
AWARD
WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Palm Springs

Sustainability Best Practice Activities









ILG INSTITUTE FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTSM
Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

City of Palm Springs

California communities are leading the fight against climate change. From small projects to large-scale programs, cities and counties are making great strides to create healthy, sustainable and economically prosperous communities. Participants in ILG's Beacon Program serve as leaders in this effort, making measureable contributions to reducing energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and sharing their sustainability best practices.

This document represents a collection of activities your agency has completed in 10 areas of sustainability. While local governments have a wide range of choices available to address climate change, these activities represent the unique opportunities and values in your community. These voluntary actions are essential to achieving California's goals to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create more sustainable communities.

SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			
	Agency Energy Savings	2013 (9%)		
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2013	2016	
	Beacon Award			

Cities and counties throughout the Golden State should be proud of the accomplishments made through the hard work, innovation and collective community action. The Institute for Local Government applauds your achievements and thanks you for your continued participation in the Beacon Program.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC). SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. The Beacon Program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities

Silver

1. The city kicked off its PACE Program with hosted two workshops, one for contractors and one for small hotels, which resulted in two applicants to the program.

Gold

2. The city partnered with GRID Alternatives to promote their SASH program.
3. The city changed all holiday lighting in downtown to LED lighting.

Platinum

4. The city Performed over \$18 million in renovations at the new cogeneration plant, including new chillers, new engines, update irrigation, motion sensors, and new lighting for city buildings.
5. The city promoted appliance rebates for all energy star appliances to encourage energy savings and water conservation.
6. The city supported “Energy Vampire Month” in October to illustrate energy loss to city employees and the community.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. The city offers a low flow, low income toilet rebate to purchase and install low flow toilets.

Gold

2. The City of Palm Springs Office of Sustainability has developed a Lawn Buy Back Program to encourage property owners to replace turf with low or no water use desert-friendly and native landscaping. The exterior improvements will contribute to overall revitalization using sustainable materials/practices. The first year of the program (fiscal year 2011-2012) provides for grants up to \$2,500 to finance all or a portion of a property owner's landscape improvements. A 50% cash match is required of all applicants regardless of the requested grant amount.
3. The city's Facilities Department "desert-scaped" several locations of agency landscape including the fleet area and city hall parking lot.

Platinum

4. The city added four new dual flush toilets to the fleet and facilities maintenance areas.





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city provided Green Building 101 training to staff to explore the various problems with energy, water, siting, materials and air quality. Staff learned dozens of practical, tangible solutions for how to reduce the impact of your buildings, saving energy, water, and money at the same time.

Gold

2. The city mandated green building protocols for two city-lead projects.
3. The city expanded its household hazardous waste service area without adding to building footprint.

Platinum





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city hosts four e-waste and shredding events a year.

Gold

2. The city has a 24-hour e-waste drop off.
3. The city has a Compost Pilot Program in place for the largest food waste producers in Palm Springs- hotels and casinos.

Platinum

4. The city banned single use plastic bags.
5. The city provides free sharps and medical waste containers provided at city hall for residents.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. The city adopted a Local Preference Ordinance.

Gold

2. The city adopted a Sustainable Events Policy.
3. The city only buys paper with post-consumer or 100% recycled content.

Platinum

4. The city added green pest control requirements to its Pest Control Policy.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city The city hosts the Annual Electric Vehicle (EV) Fair.

Gold

2. The city belongs to the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Coachella Valley Program, a regional collaborative that works with vehicle fleets, fuel providers, community leaders, and other stakeholders to reduce petroleum use in transportation.
3. The city secured funding from the Air Quality Management District to add solar to five city facilities including.

Platinum





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. The city provides a bike rack map on its website to promote biking in the city.

Gold

2. The city removed bike corrals and parking spaces to install more than 70 new bike racks to support biking.
3. The city has installed 43 EV charging stations throughout the city.

Platinum





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. The city supports EV infrastructure and promotes Neighborhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) travel in the city by creating a map showing where the stations are located throughout the city.

Gold

2. In collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club, the city added an orchard at Sunrise Park, which includes 16 new fruit trees.
3. The city created additional green space by adding an orchard at James O. Jesse Community Center.

Platinum





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. The city built a community garden.

Gold

2. The city planted over 300 native or desert-friendly trees in Tahquitz Creek Wash and Ruth Hardy Park.
3. The city gave away more than 500 desert friendly trees to school children at its annual Arbor Day event.

Platinum

4. The city provided the public with a free workshop on gardening in the desert.
5. The city planned a free community planting day with free giveaways to demonstrate desert friendly landscaping principles.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. The city hosts the Sustainability Summit Annually. In 2010, keynote speaker, Bill McKibben, attracted 500 residents.

Gold

2. The city gathered input from residents through a survey regarding the city's Climate Action Plan.
3. The city created a "Sustainable Saturday" film series where it shows one free sustainability themed film a month to the public.

Platinum

4. The city provided a garden grant of \$1200 to the Desert Aids Project so that the non-profit organization could add a garden for their patients.
5. The city named its sixth "Green Citizen of the Year", Mary Beth Wehri.





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